

CSI Country Wide Case Study Safety Strategy Discussion

Construction Safety Investigator



Instructions

The objective of this tool is to provide field supervisors with information to proactively engage workers and discuss safety related concerns that they may encounter. Safety discussions should not be limited to the subject above and should pertain to the activities that workers will be involved in that may have the potential for safety related exposures.

Case Day:

February 1, 2005

Accident Type:

Ladder Accident – Improper Use

Relevant laws, rules and codes may include:

29CFR 1926.20(a)(1), 1926.21(b)(2), 1926.1053(b)(4), 1926.1053(b)(13), 1926.1060

Case:

An electrician was killed following a fall off a step ladder.

Accident Detail:

The employee was an electrician performing interior electrical work. He was wiring display cabinets which measured 8 feet, 7 inches tall, while standing on an 8-foot step ladder. The display cabinets were being installed in a department store, which was under renovation.

The employee had completed the wiring work and was cleaning up his tools when he noticed that he dropped a screwdriver in the wall between the display cabinets. He borrowed a flashlight from a coworker and returned to the area to retrieve it.

He climbed the ladder again to get the screwdriver and during his attempt, tried to reposition himself. In doing so, he lifted his leg, lost his balance and fell backwards, striking his head on a wood table. The employee was pronounced dead on the scene.

Reconstructive Safety Evaluation:

- What are some of the possible causes of the accident being discussed?
- What actions could have been taken that might have prevented this accident from occurring?

Accident Scene Conclusion:

The investigation revealed the employee climbed up the ladder, straddled the top step and sat down while attempting to retrieve the screwdriver with a makeshift tool.

Preventive Safety Measures Include:

- All operations are preplanned using a Job Safety Task Analysis (JSTA) to ensure potential safety hazards associated with an operation are identified and appropriate steps are taken to eliminate or control them.
- Workers should be trained in the hazards of the work they are to perform, the personal protective equipment and safe work procedures necessary to perform their assigned tasks. This includes training on the type of ladder the worker will be using.
- When employees are required to work from ladders, ensure the ladders are only used for the purposes in which they were designed and in the manner the manufacturer intended them to be used.

Attendance Roster

Reference: This case was reported in the www.OSHA.Gov web site, Accident: 202354684.

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